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ASHBURTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1954

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I present my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st December 1954.

There has been a marked increase in the number of Infectious Diseases which have been notified. This is almost entirely due to two minor epidemics of whooping cough which occurred in the early and latter parts of the year.

The birth and death rates closely resemble those of the whole country. There is an interesting disparity of the age at death between male and female, where the average female age is 73 and the male 62.

Regular samples of water are taken from the Council's own source of supply for bacteriological examination. The results have all been good, and there have been no complaints of the taste of chlorine in the water.

Steps are being taken to increase the supply of water to the town, and it is pleasing to record that there was no real water shortage during the year.

During the year, following an order made under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, all milk sold by retail had to be "Pasteurised", "Sterilised", "Tuberculin-Tested" or "Accredited". This should help considerably to eliminate spread of disease by milk.

Although it is not a notifiable disease, there is, in the Urban District every year an outbreak of summer gastroenteritis of varying degree. It is common knowledge that this also occurs in almost every other town or district throughout the country, where it is cheerfully put down to the water or even air of that particular place. It is, however, less commonly realised that the spread of infection is due almost entirely to FLIES settling on food. A great deal of illness and inconvenience can be avoided if food is protected and dustbins covered and sprayed, particularly during the summer months.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

R. BELLAMY
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District (in acres)	6,781
Population - Mid 1954	2,710
Population in 1953 Census.....	2,680
Number of inhabited houses.....	1,038
Rateable value on 1st April, 1954	£. 15,678
Product of penny rate (as at 1st April, 1954) ..	£. 62

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the statistics which follow it will be noted that the Birth and Death rates are calculated as 'Crude' and 'Corrected'.

The 'Crude' rate represents the actual figures obtained by arithmetical proportion.

The 'Corrected' or 'Standardised' rate takes into account the difference in the distribution of the various age groups and the proportion of the sexes in Ashburton as compared with the rest of the country and gives a truer comparison between the state of affairs in this Urban District and that in the larger units.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	20	19	39
Illegitimate	-	1	1
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	20	20	40
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Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population - 14.76

Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population 16.09

Crude Live Birth rate for the Administrative
County of Devon. 13.08

Corrected Live Birth rate for the Administrative
County of Devon 14.91

Live Birth rate per 1000 total population
England and Wales 15.20

Still Births.

One still birth occurred	
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births	24.39
Still Birth rate per 1000 live and still births (England & Wales)	23.4

Deaths.

During the year the average age at death from all causes was found to be 67.79 years. The average age of all male deaths was 62.20 and for female deaths 73.39 years.

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
19	22	41
Crude death rate per 1000 population		15.13
Corrected death rate per 1000 population.....		11.80
Crude death rate for the Administrative County of Devon		14.18
Corrected death rate for the Administrative County of Devon		10.49
Death Rate per 1000 total population England & Wales		11.30

Infant Mortality.

(Death of Infants under One year of Age)	1 Male
Infant mortality rate (Death of Infants under one year) per 1000 related to live births	25.00
Infant mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	25.48
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	25.50

Neo-Natal Mortality.

(Death of Infants under Four weeks of age) ...	1 male
Neo-natal Mortality rate per 1000 related to live births	25.00
Neo-natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	16.79
Corresponding rate for England & Wales	17.70

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths occurred during the past year.
A total of 4 cases occurred in the Administrative County
of Devon.

AGE AT DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Infants under 4 weeks	1	-
1	-	1
5	-	-
15	-	-
25	-	-
45	-	-
65	-	10 ¹¹
75 and over	3	10
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	19	22

Total:- 41

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
All causes	19	22
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	3
Coronary disease, angina	1	7
Other heart disease	2	5
Other circulatory disease	3	0
Pneumonia	0	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0
Congenital Malformations	1	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	0
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Total	19	22

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INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough	21	10	31
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	2
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	23	11	34
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HOUSING.

Six new Council Houses were completed in the past year.
Two houses were built under private enterprise.
Slum clearance remains an urgent problem, and it is
hoped that steps will soon be taken to this end.

